

AIMS UPDATE FOR TEST COORDINATORS

Arizona Department of Education (ADE)

Standards and Assessment

<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/>

August 2003

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We recommend that recipients of the AIMS Update communicate the information to superintendents, charter holders, principals, school test coordinators, teachers, special education directors, curriculum directors, counselors, assistant principals, students and parents.

STATE TESTING SCHEDULE **SCHOOL YEAR 2003-2004**

Stanford 9 – Grades 2 – 9

Administration dates: March 15 – May 1, 2004

AIMS – Grades 3, 5, 8 and 10

Census field test of writing prompts:

Administration dates: October 6-10, 2003

AIMS – Grades 3, 5, and 8 (operational) and
Grades 4, 6, 7 (field test)

Administration dates: April 19 – April 30, 2004

AIMS – High School: All grade 10 students,
and all grade 11 and 12 students who have not
yet achieved “Meets Standard” or “Exceeds the
Standard” in reading, writing, or mathematics
will be tested.

Administration dates:

Reading—February 24, 2004

Writing—February 25, 2004

MAKE-UP:

Reading—March 2, 2004

Writing—March 3, 2004

Inter-session MAKE-UP:

Reading—February 26, 2004

Writing—February 27, 2004

Mathematics administration dates:

April 22, 2004

MAKE-UP: April 26, 2004

Critical events and timelines for completion
of tasks for both the Stanford 9 and AIMS can
be found on the attached State Testing-Critical
Dates Grid or at:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/downloads/CriticalTestingDates2004.pdf>

CHANGE IN MATERIAL DELIVERY **DATES**

Security constraints for high stakes testing at the high school requires a short time period between districts receiving test materials and the test administration. Therefore, test materials for High School AIMS Reading/Writing will be delivered February 9-13. Harcourt will over print to reduce the need for additional materials. However, additional materials will be available, but must be requested by February 17, 2004. For the same security reason, High School AIMS Mathematics will be delivered April 5-9.

To reduce the amount of testing materials arriving in a district for test coordinators to process, Stanford 9 materials will be delivered February 23-27, after AIMS high school materials.

TESTING DATES WILL NOT CHANGE.

MAKE-UP TESTS FOR **HIGH SCHOOL AIMS**

This school year, individual high school students will have the opportunity to make-up AIMS if they are unable to participate on designated testing dates. Make-ups are being included to assist schools to meet the 95% tested requirement for AYP. Schools will be expected to administer the tests to all students on the designated date. If your school is in inter-session on the primary dates for make-up tests (March 2 and 3), then the make-up tests (for intersession schools only) must be scheduled on February 26, 2003 (reading) and February 27, 2004 (writing).

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Meeting or exceeding academic standards on AIMS is a high school graduation requirement for the class/cohort of 2006 (students who began as freshmen in school year 2002-2003, generally this year's sophomores). Students will have five opportunities to meet or exceed on AIMS prior to their graduation date in 2006.

REPORTS FOR WRITING

The Writing AIMS 2004 and beyond will consist of an extended writing piece only. For the high school AIMS writing, two readers will score each high school student paper. Each individual trait score will be reported. The writing score for each student (3, 5, 8, & HS) will be expressed as a scale score.

OCTOBER AIMS FIELD TEST OF WRITING PROMPTS

Only those schools that are in session during the testing window for the **October AIMS Field Test of Writing Prompts** will be required to give the assessment. Schools on inter-session at the time are exempt. We will have enough samples from the rest of the state to determine how well the prompts function.

The test can be administered any day during the testing window, but the entire administration must occur on the same day. You should plan for the same amount of time that you have used on previous AIMS writing prompt assessments. The field test will contain only a writing prompt and no multiple-choice items.

PRE-IDENTIFICATION

There are several changes on the pre-identification demographic form. Several items that were optional before are now required. The following student information items are required:

- SAIS student number
- Racial ethnic background
- Did you start this school year at this school
- Number of years in the school
- Number of years in the district
- Primary language spoken at home
- All questions concerning EL

THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OUT-OF-LEVEL TESTING

The Exceptional Students Department will be notifying districts in the next few weeks about out-of-level testing policy. A conflict between IDEA and NCLB is being resolved for Arizona.

ITEM TYPE CHANGES FOR SPRING AIMS 2004

All items on the reading and mathematics sections of Spring AIMS 2004 will be multiple-choice. The writing section will contain only a prompt.

NCLB requires that students be assessed on the state standards in grades 3-8 and high school in mathematics and reading/language arts by 2006. In Spring 2004 operational tests grades 3, 5, 8, and high school will be based on 1996 standards. The field test for grades 4, 6, 7 will be based on the new articulated standards.

Since AIMS for grades 4, 6, 7 are field tests, districts and schools will not receive reports for these grades. The field test items will be evaluated for inclusion in the scorable AIMS in 2005.

ITEM WRITING

During June, July, and August of this year, over 400 Arizona teachers worked in teams to develop AIMS items for grades 3-8 and 10 for mathematics, reading, and writing. This work included item development based on the test blueprints for the articulated standards in mathematics and reading, passage review, content and bias review, and statistical analysis review. The spring 2005 AIMS grades 3-8 and 10 will be comprised solely of Arizona grown and owned items.

SUMMER WORK ON STANDARDS

The new **Reading Standard and Mathematics Standard** articulated by grade level are posted on the ADE website and may be downloaded for use. Crosswalks are also posted that detail the correlation between the 1996 standards and the new articulated standards. www.ade.az.gov/standards The new standards may be incorporated this year, and will become mandatory beginning in the fall of 2004.

In July, approximately 100 science educators from around Arizona met to create the

first draft of the new **Science Standard** articulated by grade level. There will be revisions and refinements made to the 1996 standards, and each grade level will have its own set of performance objectives. A draft will be posted on the website in January for public review and feedback. ADE staff will schedule public forums around the state to allow teachers, parents, and the community to submit feedback regarding the new science standard. Beginning in 2008, NCLB requires science testing in benchmark years.

Questions regarding standards development may be directed to Kathy Kay at kkay@ade.az.gov

AIMS STUDENT GUIDES

AIMS Student Guides will be distributed this year in December or early January. The guides are being revised to reflect the change to all multiple-choice items in AIMS for 2004.

PERSONNEL CHANGES AT STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Dr. Paul Young has assumed a new role at ADE. He is the Deputy Associate Superintendent for School Improvement. Roberta Alley is the new coordinator for the administration of AIMS and Stanford 9. (602) 542-5450 will continue to be the direct line to the test coordinator or email her at ralley@ade.az.gov

Bryan Doyle has joined Standards and Assessment and will be working on standards development and item development. He can be reached at bdoyle@ade.az.gov

TEST COORDINATORS E-MAIL LIST

The Academic Standards and Assessment Section maintains an e-mail list of **district and charter holder test coordinators** to allow us to quickly communicate vital information. If you are new and not on the list, please allow us to communicate with you by e-mail by contacting Angeles Rothermel at arothermel@ade.az.gov. Provide your district or charter affiliation, your name, your position, your phone and fax numbers, and your current e-mail address. We will be happy to add you to our list.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: If I have questions about the materials I received from Harcourt, whom do I call?

A: You should call the Harcourt hotline at 1-(800) 800-8305 ext. 5645

Q: Will the districts receive raw scores from Field Test (fall/spring)?

A: School districts will not receive results of field tests. The results will be sent to ADE so items can be evaluated for inclusion in Spring AIMS 2005.

Q: Which students should be included in the field test?

A: All students should be included. Follow the same general guidelines that are used for AIMS testing. You will receive a "Directions for Administration" specifically for the field test.

Q: Will the writing test still consist of extended writing, short answer and multi-choice?

A: No, for both the February High School AIMS and the Spring AIMS for 3-8, the writing test will have only extended writing.

Q: When will we administer writing prompt field tests to grades 4, 6, and 7?

A: Grades 4, 6, and 7 will receive their field test in the spring administration of AIMS during the same testing window as grades 3, 5, and 8.

Q: Why do my school's test results from Harcourt not match the results posted on the ADE web?

A: The disaggregated data on the WEB removes the students that did not have three full years of English language instruction.

Q: If I have a question about my schools AYP or school profile, whom do I contact?

A: You should contact the Research and Policy Department at ADE. Phone number: (602) 542-5151 or ACHIEVE@ade.gov

CONTACT INFORMATION

Standards and Assessment Section

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Stanford 9 and AIMS Test Administration Questions:

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Academic Standards Questions:

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Questions About NAEP:

Cindy Paredes, Ph.D.

State NAEP Coordinator

Phone: 602-542-1653

Email: cparede@ade.az.gov

HARCOURT:

Questions About Scoring:

(800) 328-5999

Other questions (e.g. shipping, materials):

(800) 800-8305 ext. 5645